

10-1882

## The Aurora 10.8

Iowa State Agricultural College

Follow this and additional works at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/aurora\\_1882](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/aurora_1882)

---

### Recommended Citation

Iowa State Agricultural College, "The Aurora 10.8" (1882). *The Aurora*, 1882. 2.  
[https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/aurora\\_1882/2](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/aurora_1882/2)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Aurora at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Aurora, 1882 by an authorized administrator of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

# THE AURORA.

~~~~~  
"SCIENCE WITH PRACTICE."

---

Vol. X.] Iowa State Agricultural College, October, 1882. [No. 8.

---

## THE POET IN NATURE.

L. A.

'Twas in a pleasant woody vale,  
With many pebbled mountain brooks  
That laughing, dancing, flowed along  
In quiet, shady nooks.

And answering to the songs of birds,  
In all their merry sportful lays;  
As gushing forth from every tree  
On joyous, tranquil days.

'Twas here there lived, in solitude,  
A man of worth and power of thought,  
Who died and left his rhyming verse  
To show what he had wrought.

The world was prone and full of life;  
Huge mountains, high above his head,  
Were towering up against the sky,  
And seemed the stars to wed.

"The last sad ray of setting sun"  
Was gleaming on the Mountain's crest,  
While slowly fades the light beyond  
Into the ocean's breast.

Thus ends a day, another day  
Of pressing duties half performed.  
In silence now all seek repose,  
And Nature sleeps profound.

The shades of night have fallen now;  
The air is light with zephyrs calm.  
The south wind moans in the tree-tops  
A melancholy psalm.

Above them all, far in the west,  
The new moon throws a glowing light  
And views the peaceful little dell,  
In calmness and delight.

The poet walks in thoughtful mood,  
In silence from his cabin door,  
And strolls along the winding path,  
His thoughts on mystic lore.

He leaves the path, and through the woods  
Directs his course, to seek a place  
Where in seclusion he might sit,  
His inspired lines to trace.

Behind the western hill, the moon  
Has hid his face. Above, on high  
The stars begin their twinkling light  
And fairly gem the sky.

Long hours he sits, his task begun,  
Nor leaves it for a moments time,  
Until the sign of coming day  
Concludes his pleasant rhyme.

His task is done; he winds his way  
Through dark and dreary, dismal dells.  
Beneath his feet the crackling twigs  
Re-echo loud the swells.

Again at home, he finds his couch,  
And rests, assured his work is done.  
Contentment then shall end his song.  
Poet, sleep! your course is run.

---

## MEMORY.

D.

In the April number of the AURORA the question was asked, "Why is it that the illiterate person, in a great many instances, has a better memory than one who has been a student for years?" Its discussion should lead to a profitable train of thought to every one, however repugnant it may be to his received notions, and however reluctant he may be to admit the conclusion which he is forced to make.

Those with whom memory is free and ready to act upon that which strikes it most forcibly; those with whom no labored effort is required to retain what is not always pleasant, must ever retain impressions successfully. We have only to appeal to our personal experience and cases in the generations preceding us, for ready memory; important incidents are reproduced oftentimes with startling minuteness, extending even to exact dates.

In how much greater degree must memory

have acted among rude and unlettered people in preserving and handing down, almost unchanged, oral traditions and legends whose authenticity and accuracy have been attested by historical and archaeological researches of later times.

Max Miller speaks of an illiterate Hindoo, who, squalid and miserably clad, was accustomed to sit in his wretched hovel and repeat, with clearness and effect, the whole of the Samhita Panda to an admiring throng of visitors.

Monier Williams, the Orientalist, bears witness to the powers of memory of these untrained Hindoos, from hearing their remarkable recitations from ancient authors and observing their powers of versification; he having in one instance suggested three subjects for extempore compositions, was gratified by seeing a pandit dictate their writing to three scribes respectively, and while this was being done the native carried on a spirited conversation in addition, though the productions were simply paraphrases from the classic writers.

In the last century William Lyon, an obscure English comedian, while deep in his cups made a wager with a comrade that on the following day at rehearsal he could repeat word for word the contents of the *Daily Advertiser*. To the surprise of his fellow, who supposed it to be a maudlin boast. The whole of the disconnected matter within the paper was given without the omission or disarrangement of a single word.

I once myself witnessed a remarkable exemplification of the retentiveness of one who made up in application what he lacked in breadth of culture. Passing along through a retired region, far removed from the busy haunts of men in town or in travel, I came to a secluded house in which religious worship was in progress. I entered, and at once my attention was drawn to the central figure, a tall venerable, gray-haired man, who apparently had long since reached his three score and ten. Awkward in manner and uncouth in speech he fitly represented the characteristics of his auditors.

He was repeating passages of Scripture, passage after passage; verse after verse, one suggesting another; and the more this un-

polished monitor of a time past, as he seemed to me, kept up an unflagging stream of quotation from early twilight to a late hour. No line or passage could be suggested to him but that he gave it in full and all in the context, and all passages in the Bible that were similar or that had any bearing.

At the close I departed, but with far different feelings than must have been those of Edward Everett upon hearing the discourse of the Blind Preacher, whose vivid and thrilling oratory he so graphically describes. I was filled with astonishment and wonder at the marvelous over-development of this single faculty of memory; but confused and bewildered by the multitude of words, I had received no deep impression of any great moral truth; I had learned no new lesson, and what I heard was soon to fade away from my mind only to be recalled in connection with the time and place of the occurrence.

But while commenting upon the ready action of memory among the unlearned, it would be fallacious to attribute the greatest excellence in this regard to the class, and ignore the displays in the same direction that has been so often exhibited by men of great and general talents who were also invariably highly educated and cultured.

In Sir Walter Scott is found an illustration of a well cultivated memory coupled with great natural gifts; but his extensive store of facts was in the greatest measure derived from other sources than books. His study of character by personal observation brought him into actual contact with all classes of society throughout the larger part of his life, and his literary works bear evidence of how well he remembered the legends and ballads that were told to him as well as the traits of character of the persons he met. Dickens much resembled Scott in these points.

With Lord Byron it was somewhat different, though his productions are replete with adaptations of his own undoubted experiences. He was an omnivorous reader and the abundance and diversity of his images and ideas must be attributed to this source which enabled him to issue in rapid succession a series of poems that probably were composed during a shorter period than those

of any author of merit; for in the usual way to elaborate from personal observations they would have required nearly a whole lifetime.

Perhaps the natural power of retaining what was read, was greater in Macaulay than in any one else who has attained a high rank as a thinker—and purely natural power it seemed to be, ever active and constantly strengthened by exercise from childhood. It is related of this noted historian and essayist, that, while on a voyage in company with a friend, he passed much of his time by endeavoring to recall portions of his past reading. In one instance he repeated verbatim, two poems from a local paper which he had hastily read forty years before, and which he had not met with since or even thought of in the interval.

To give anything like a complete illustrative list of famous men who have been celebrated for their memory would swell the dimensions of this article beyond limits. The names of Scott, Byron, Bolingbroke, Pope, Johnson and Fuller would necessarily be supplemented by a score of equally familiar ones. In respect to the mere mechanical endowment of memory, Magliabechi, the celebrated Florentine librarian, doubtless surpassed all other persons of whom we have any knowledge, and no article of this kind would be complete without some mention of him. He was called by his acquaintances, the "universal index." It was common for the learned to consult him when they were writing upon any subject; and he could tell them, not only what previous authors had directly treated of the same matters, but could also point to such as had briefly and incidentally alluded to them, naming the author, the book, the words, and often the very page at which each passage occurred.

So extensive was his knowledge of books that it was firmly believed by some of his admirers that he knew the title, nature of the subject matter, and whereabouts of every book that had been issued in Europe up to that time. Once when an author had been vainly seeking a copy of a rare and valuable work, he happened to think of Magliabechi's assistance, and on applying to the latter, was rewarded by the

information that there were but two volumes of the book in existence, one was unattainable and the other could be found in a certain place in the library of the Grand Seignion in Constantinople. The directions being duly carried out the book was found as predicted.

Magliabechi's memory was once put to a severe trial. A friend gave him a manuscript to read and after a time received it again. Shortly afterward the individual came to him, lamenting its loss, and entreating him to put down as much of it as as he could remember that it might be rewritten. The other consented and wrote over the entire production, word for word from beginning to end.

Memory is determined greatly by personal taste and the bias which circumstances of early life may have given to habit. Bidder the calculating prodigy, at the age of ten, could repeat twelve long columns of figures in any order after a moments glance at them. Contrast with him George Combe, the phrenologist, who asserts that although he spent seven years of study upon the multiplication table he was never able to master it completely.

Does it not appear that with all our modern improvements and facilities in the culture of the mental powers, we have sadly neglected memory? Have we not, in avoiding one extreme gone to an equal, if not greater in the opposite direction? Mere retention of irrelevant matter it is true, can not benefit any one; but the memory assimilates and applies knowledge according to the powers of the individual, and if naturally acquired, failure to be productive of good results in the application. Nobody can know too much if he knows it rightly.

The memory and the understanding cannot be separated. The understanding will inevitably digest information so as to produce thoughts provided it be not crowded to an unreasonable degree. Memory may be said to have two defects: first, the mind loses the idea, entirely, and secondly, it moves too slowly.

The remedy for the former is concentration at the time of acquisition, and for the latter frequent repetition, not of the words alone, but of the thought.

By observance of these principles; by close attention to what is worthy of being remembered; by constant recurrence to the impressions thus produced, no one will ever have cause to complain of the deficient action of whatever talent of this kind nature has given him.

## IRVING AND HIS GRANADA.

CURTIS.

On the southern boundary of Spain, intrenched among the rocky summits of the Sierras, the remnant of the proud Moorish kingdom, unfurled the crescent and bade defiance to the mailed warriors of the cross.

For six hundred years, rarely had peace rested upon this land. The husbandmen was ever listening for the tramp of the marauder; the watchmen stood sentinel upon the city walls; and the belted warrior awaited the signal to arms.

The impetuous Moore, hurling his followers from their mountain fastness upon the cities of Andalusia, Castile, and Aragon, was met by battle scarred heroes, accustomed to conquer, men of dauntless courage and unflinching zeal.

Now the bold mountain warrior, urged on by the spirit of Mohammed, carried the reeking sword to the heart of christian Spain; and again, the stern Castilian, inspired by christian faith, bore the lance-tipped cross to the very threshold of the enemy.

On the one hand the Moors, supported by a power beyond the Gibraltar,—on the other the sympathy of christian Europe, centered in the warriors of Spain—kindled the flames of war; a war which closed forever the power of Mohammed and saved Christianity to the world; a war which blotted out the dark diolatri of ages and opened wide the portals of Faith; a war of centuries, feeding the chivalry of Spain, and burying with Granada the haughty spirit of the Moors. Such were the events which Washington Irving so skillfully outlined in his marvelous history, *The Conquest of Granada*.

Noble objects have within them grand inspirations. The sculptor must have his model; the painter his beautiful landscape.

The Last Supper was the conception of Leonondo DeVinci, and, touched by his

brush, it became immortal. Powers had his "Greek Slave," and Michael Angelo the Cathedral of St. Peter.

Irving wrought not in Marble, constructed no cathedral; but he conceived a grander work; he brought a slumbering nation to life, rebuilt and repeopled her cities, and caused them again to act their tragic careers before the civilized world.

It is an instance where history is evolved from fiction; the plain truth of the historian, the rich fancy of the poet are blended in the wonderful narrative. The chivalrous gallantry of the Moors gave tone and color to the most tender romance; or the fierce hatred of the christian heights, filled many a page with deeds of holy horror.

The men of Granada were warriors; and the women, warriors' wives. From every peak there frowned a grizzled tower and from the hills a hundred watchfires blazed. Far above their heads the hardy woodsman plied his trusty axe; and, above all, draping the brown summit with mantle of spotless white;—the silent snow kept lasting vigil.

The grandeur of the object, combined with the mystic poesy of Irving's nature, has given to the world the brightest reflection of American Genius. Humanity in its page has lost its dullness, and reflected nature shines with a brighter light; nothing is overdrawn, but everything is touched with the rich color of imagination. The soul of Irving glows in the darkness of his most brilliant production. While he copied the best English models, his works possess a brilliancy peculiar to Irving alone. The richness and delicacy of his humor is unsurpassed, a humor descending to the broadest farce or penetrating to the hidden fountain of tears; it plays around the historical manuscripts of Antonio Agapida, and mingles delightfully with the pathos of his pictures; it entrances the young and delights the old; it is founded in the feelings, and appeals to the best instincts of the human heart; it suggests in one, the gay humor of Chaucer, and the rich imagination of Spencer. Irving was humane, and his humanity shows itself under every disguise; every emotion of his heart seems kindly, generous and good. A respect for truth and a deep sympathy with innocence oppressed shine in his pages; with

a mind unsoiled by meanness or suspicion, he surveys the Drama of Human life and extracts from it a lesson of charity and love. The despised disciple of Allah, he has lifted from the mire of christian obloquy, and placed on the throne of admiration; holding nothing in common with a peculiar people, he has linked his destiny with theirs, and given to unknown heroes an immorality of fame. Irving is a scenic painter. His pages are a panorama. His picture sketches are touched with life-like colors.

Zahara has fallen! her warriors have perished, and her helpless women and children are driven captive to Granada; but the Moslem king has reckoned without his host; news of victory has preceded him, the festal board is spread with Moorish bounty, and exultation is unbounded. In the midst of these festivities, the captives of Zahara enter the city gates—a wretched train of children, women, men, worn, haggard, goaded to desperation. Old men whose hoary heads inspired reverence; mothers with their helpless infants dying in their arms; children, whose innocence touched anew the slumbering fountain of love. The people are moved to sympathy, and curse their barbarous king; but while the expressions of indignation pass from mouth to mouth, and indicate an approaching storm, the Alhambra remains undimmed by scenes of horror. Men kneel to royalty, and seldom do any clouds, save those of incense, approach the sacred precincts of the throne; but now a voice echoes from the throng of courtly sycophants and bursts like thunder on the ears of Abul Hassan. “Woe! Woe! to Granada! Its hour of desolation is at hand, and the ruins of Zahara will fall upon our heads!” The denouncer has gone, but from every nook and corner comes the warning echo, ringing the knell of Moslem power and making the tyrant king tremble on his throne.

A year passes, and Boabdil el-Chico, Boabdil the unlucky stakes his all in the royal game of war; and by successive turns of fortune’s wheel, his crown, his honor, and his very soul, are sacrificed.

“A house divided against itself must fall;” and the rival claims of father and son caused the downfall of Granada and hastened the

close of Mohammedan power. This charming production of Irving is the tribute of one of the most brilliant and versatile writers of the New World to the departed greatness of one of most chivalrous people of the old.

Oh! bright emblem of American thought In thy pages, history, poetry, romance, blend in beautiful harmony. Oh! hard-favored visage of reality; how tame is fact, untouched by fancy; and how grand is truth when silvered o’er with the rich imagery of genius.

Proud city of Mohammed, thou art conquered. A student stands in thy solitudes, and wanders in thy tenantless courts; a stranger collects the mouldering vellum in the cloisters, and builds an historical monument to thy departed heroes. The horse and the turbaned rider are evoked from the dust of ages, and enthroned forever upon a pedestal of glory.

---

#### PRACTICAL BEARING OF PSYCHOLOGY.

In this age of practical knowledge, we are inclined to forget those studies that deal with mind and its working in man, and pursue with great eagerness the studies relating to matter in its various forms. This should not be. While we believe that the precious moments of life should not be wasted in useless labor; we think that a careful study of the mind and its laws, is time spent in a most profitable way.

The practical value of psychology has not occupied the mind of the general student as much as it should. And the purpose of this article is to call attention to its usefulness, rather than to give specific reasons why this is so.

That an accurate knowledge of the laws and development of the human mind is essential in the study of our educational and social systems, cannot be denied. Every educator, scientist, lawyer, statesman and journalist should have a thorough knowledge of the elements that they are dealing with, and each one of them has something to do with mind in some of its forms. How can they found a stable basis upon which to build, when the elements to be developed are not taken into consideration? Each one in his own department seeks to accomplish his

work with the least resistance, or mental friction; and here a knowledge of the mental laws is very important.

The teacher should understand the development of the intellectual faculties, because experience has taught us that the course of study should adapt itself to the growth and development of the mental powers. When we know that the order of mental growth is: senses, conception, memory, judgment, imagination, and reason, we will at once come to the conclusion that we should pursue the same order in educating the young. First educate the senses, then drill on conception and memory. All knowledge should as far as possible, have a purely experimental introduction, and here we should remember the evolution found in all departments of nature. From the simple to the complex; from the concrete to the abstract. The concrete methods in education should precede the abstract, as we can arrange, generalize and reason only from the facts that have been gathered in by the concrete processes. To generalize without the single facts is to dwell in mystery. In a child we should train faculties instead of insisting upon memorizing of mere facts without any logical connection. If the number of teachers, who go out to teach the "rising generation," would remember this, one great step had been accomplished by psychology.

As older students and more advanced thinkers, we can also learn a lesson in our individual process of education. What we should learn is, *how to think correctly*, as improper modes of thinking will lead to erroneous results. There is an old adage, that "there is no royal road to learning," this is true; but the road is often made harder than necessary. If the course of nature is adapted in educating the mind, it will fall into a state of self-evolution. By virtue of conquest, pleasure is experienced at the victory of each difficulty. But we do not always follow nature's method, the consequence is that pain and punishment must direct the footsteps of the searcher of knowledge.

It may appear strange, but it is true, that imagination is the greatest factor in scientific investigation. Art, literature, and almost every branch of human research involves the exercise of this faculty in a greater or less degree. How important it is that imagination should be properly trained and developed. An injudicious exercise of imagination in these departments of labor may lead to fearful results. The science of math-

ematics is based on the fundamental conception of space and number; if these psychological properties were taken away it would not have the least particle of foundation on which to stand. As a general rule, those students whose minds are metaphysically inclined are good mathematicians. Physics rests on the law of causality. Close and accurate observations give data for a process of reasoning, a conclusion must be derived from the present data, or, the cause of the apparent phenomena which is the object of research. Here we find a close combination of empirical and philosophical knowledge. Biology, or science of life, bears a close relation to metaphysics. A practical knowledge of the mental laws, and a proper training of the mental faculties will greatly assist in the pursuit of any of these sciences.

The lawyer, statesman and journalist, those who have to deal with mankind in general, should know what man is and the laws by which mind is governed. The lawyer should know the traits of human character, and how to analyze man's nature. The statesman who makes laws and governs a people, ought to know that the character of the mass is determined by the character of the individuals that constitute it. If a man is ignorant of the laws of self, he is also ignorant of the laws of others. How can we remove prejudice in the minds of others when we do not know its association with the mental faculties. We should remember that when we remove the causes, the effects will disappear. The effect of any product of art or literature may be easily predicted, when we know the nature of the human mind. Many years of hard and earnest toil are wasted by missionaries in trying to convert the heathen mind to the gospel truth, when their minds are really incapable of understanding the teachings, or their constitutional mental traits are such as to firmly hold their old and savage customs. The most concrete methods, or the gradual civilization of one or two generations may be necessary before their minds can be taught with proper results.

These brief remarks may suggest the value of psychology as a means; but psychology also serves as a valuable end of study. The habits of close analysis, keen observation and love for truth, results which naturally arise from a careful study of this mental science, prepares a way for the investigation of the fields lying beyond. God, freedom, and immortality, subjects of metaphysical inquiry, are themes so grand and noble, that as long as man is a thinking subject, they will engage his most solemn and deepest thoughts. The great problems, *why* and *how to live*, will constantly occupy the human mind. Let us therefore seek for light, and accept it wherever it can be found.

## SCIENTIFIC.

## LIMITS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.

O. C. P.

Is there a limit to human knowledge? or will the mind progress till all things shall be within its grasp? It seems that there is a limit to human knowledge; that there is a veil beyond which the mind can not penetrate. "Thus far and no further," applies to the mind in all its researches. This applies particularly in scientific investigation; there many difficult problems arise which constantly bewilder the mind and defy investigation; such as conditions of mind and matter, their relationship, the influence they bear upon each other in sleeping, dreaming, and fainting. The question whether mind and matter are not really the same thing will constantly engage the most complex reasoning and difficult investigation of the scientific mind.

We find science limited by the *number of faculties of the human mind*. We can know things only as we have faculties with which to know them. There may be in existence many objects which we have no power to cognize. They have no qualities by which they are known, and as we know nothing of matter we can only determine its presence by its qualities. We know mind, matter and space exist, but they may have attributes of which we have no knowledge, and if known our whole conception of the universe might be changed. Some one has compared the mind to a dodecahedron with only five sides exposed to the influence of the surrounding world. So that it is probable that if we had more than five senses, we would find in existence qualities to employ the use of all. We would not know the existence of odor if we had no organ of smell, and in the same way our knowledge of the external world would be in the same proportion as we had senses by which to know it.

Again, science is limited by *certain ultimate truths* which are not derived from experience, or by any process of reason or judgment. They appear in concrete and individual cases, and we act spontaneously upon them. To us they are ultimate truths.

The human mind in knowing starts with them, and beyond them it can not go. In them science reaches its limits. All acts of consciousness involve some of the ultimate truths. We assume the actual existence of substance, and no philosophical speculation can force the idealistic belief upon us. Yet it is almost impossible to overthrow the idealistic theory by philosophical argument. Mind and matter have some association and this is to us an ultimate truth. In memory we assume the relation of time and identity. In forming a notion we assume the relation of similarity. In judgment we infer an agreement or disagreement; in deduction that of the whole and its parts. Eliminate each intuitive cognition as substance and attribute, time and space, cause and effect and the Baconian method would not turn a wheel. When a number of hypotheses are presented some are rejected at once because they imply awkwardness or too great complexity, and others accepted because they seem possible. Reason is used as a criterion in many cases. John Stuart Mills undertook to derive the ultimate truths from sensations through association, and he was at last brought into a world where two and two made five. Herbert Spencer adopted a better plan, he says that ultimate truths are derived from ancestral experience, in a general evolution from age to age; but this is still an unsatisfactory explanation. The great chasm which separates the sentient from the unsentient is yet unexplored. Consciousness is said to be an unbroken series of sensations and from this basis ultimate truths are derived; but so far all attempts to explain their origin has failed, and scientific knowledge is limited by their presence.

Science is also limited by *the range of the human faculties*. We have certain limited powers beyond which we can not exert any strength. The nature and origin of human knowledge can never be definitely known. When we compare what little we do know with what there is to be known, we find it to be but a drop in the great ocean of the unknown. Our life, the time for gathering knowledge, is short compared with the unknown past and future. There is an infinite extension of space which we can never



expect to reach. We can not imagine space so small but what we can divide it again. When we think of the stars which are so much larger than our earth, and then compare their size with the infinite sederal heavens, we will at once recognize the limited range of human faculties. How do we know that the ego of to-day is the same as same as that of a year ago? What do we know of soul in sleep, or will, instinct, and nature of God? How accurate are we in mathematics? Can we calculate the exact orbit of a planet in space? No, not until we have calculated the attraction of all bodies existing in space. Light and heat, their nature and origin can never be known with perfect exactness. The wonderful nature of protoplasm; the hidden qualities of the embryo which develops into a body full of life, life itself—all of these bewilder the strongest intellect. The mysterious force, called Will, is and will forever remain as unknown. Why should the human mind boast of so much learning when it really knows but little? We see how human knowledge is limited by the various conditions of mind; but if we know that we can not understand or know all things, let us not be discouraged but continue our search for more light.

#### PROPERTIES OF NITRO-GLYCERINE.

It has a sweet, aromatic, pungent taste, and possesses the peculiar property of causing an extremely violent headache when placed in a small quantity upon the tongue, or any other portion of the skin, particularly upon the wrist. It has long been employed by homeopathic practitioners as a remedy in certain kinds of headaches. It freezes at about fifty degrees Fahrenheit, becoming a white, half crystallized mass, which must be melted by the application of water at about forty degrees, Fahrenheit. If perfectly pure and free from acid it can be kept for an unlimited period of time; but spontaneous decomposition may occur in impure specimens.

If a small quantity of pure nitro-glycerine be placed on an anvil and struck with a hammer, that portion struck with the hammer explodes sharply, but so quickly as to drive away the other particles; but if it

were confined none would escape, it would all explode or detonate. The best, and most generally used fuse for firing nitro-glycerine is fulminate of mercury. If a flame be applied to nitro-glycerine it will burn with comparative sluggishness. When frozen it is very difficult and uncertain of firing. Upon detonation it forms a volume of gases nearly thirteen hundred times as great as the original liquid; these gases are farther expanded by the heat developed, to a theoretical volume ten thousand times as great as that of the charge. Practically speaking, the forces exerted by gunpowder and nitro-glycerine are in proportion of one to eight.

*Pop. Sci. Monthly.*

#### SCIENCE A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE'S WORK.

BILLY.

Men of all classes, and through all times, both the civilized and the barbarian, have always recognized somewhere a power higher than the self or ego. The wild men of the forests found it among the heavenly bodies, the winds, and the mighty rushing of waters. The heathen tribes and nations conceived that power inherent in an image, planned and moulded by their own unskilled hands, but the worship and supposed action of such a power is founded upon pure ignorance co-operative with nothing more or less than blind superstition. But the progress of the ages is gradually dispelling such ignorance, and blind superstition is becoming a thing of the past. Many are the causes, and numerous are the elements which have been at work, tending to expel this barrier to civilization from the human mind; and not least among these is Mohammedanism, the doctrine or creed assailed by all modern theists. And indeed, this was one of the mightiest, and most active agents in elevating mankind from the slums of Idolatry,—a stepping stone to something immeasurably higher. But preeminent above this as a civilizer, dominant over all in expelling ignorance and blind superstition from our midst, stands the universal search for truth, *science*. Lessing, if you recollect, is noted for his famous saying—that if the *Almighty* held in His right hand truth, and in his left the universal search for truth, he

would humbly bow to the latter; for said he, truth itself belongs to the Almighty only; while the universal search for truth lends to man an element of activity and progression. One of the grandest of truths that science has taught mankind, and the foremost one in advancing its principles and propounding its theories, in fact itself a fundamental principle is, that not one particle of matter can be created that did not exist in the beginning, nor can one particle of the now existing matter be annihilated or swept eternally from the universe. Electricity and magnetism, heat and light, muscular energy and chemical attraction, motion and mechanical work—all forces of the universe, are only different forms of one and the same great power which has dwelt from the first in matter in an unvariable quantity.

It is only the phenomenal forms of power that are changeable. Light can be converted into a chemical equivalent, this again into heat, heat into motion and indeed a fixed quantity of one force always and only into an exact equivalent of another force. The complex force represented in the acquired momentum of a falling or projected body suddenly checked in its course, though apparently lost, is found to manifest itself in an exact equivalent of heat, or thermal units. Not the least particle or molecule can be annihilated or created out of nothing; and only in the transformation of perishable bodies, are the molecules formed into every new and varied combination. To some it may appear strange although an undisputed fact, that what we distinguish as natural forces are only the varied molecular movements; and according to the swiftness and width of undulation of these molecules, will this motion on our senses be regarded now as sound, now as heat then as light or as color. In fact all the fixed sciences of the present day, are being studied in a connected manner. The several physical sciences have entered into the closest organic union; physics and chemistry, along with mathematics, astronomy and geology, have been blended into the new science, History of the Development of Worlds. Paleontology, systematic botany and zoology, have been joined into a united science of organisms. The physiology of plants, and of animals have

become coalesced into a universal Biology, and the boundary between the organic, and the more organic aspects of nature, are being ever more and more obliterated, and out, of the whole a universal natural science is being rapidly constructed.

Science is to me not only a proof of man's intellectual authority, and the seal of his emancipation from the tyranny of ignorance but the pledge of an unimaginable progress in the rapidly approaching future. By the beautiful uniformity of law which it discovers in nature, it discharges the human mind of those early superstitions which saw a despot god in every bush, whose wanton will paralyzed the free flight of our intellect. But neither the tempest, or frowns of nature are terrible to us, now that we may bend her most hostile forces into willing obedience. Science, moreover, is resting from creation her final secrets, and will furnish to the philosophic mind the means of a more effulgent and glorious solution of the dark problems of life and destiny, than is possible to be reached by unaided conjecture. But the idea of the true, the beautiful, and the good, remain unshaken; indeed they are all the more firmly established, as they have been deduced from the order of the universe, and from the mind of man himself. The youth who is preparing himself to tread the pathway of life, is filled to overflowing with high ambitions and lofty aspirations. He must now equip himself to battle with the living elements of nature; not in the dazzling armor of knighthood, not in the gaudy robes of priestcraft; but with that undaunted energy of mind which man obtains only in the study and search after nature's mighty truths. It is within the dawn of the last three centuries that man begun to recognize that his progress advanced just in proportion as he studied and utilized the forces of nature; and the recognition of this fact, succeeded in directing the attention of the brightest and keenest intellects of the age to this field of labor.

And the mind of man, once impressed with the conviction that order and law prevail everywhere, never again rests, until the full beauty and harmony of nature has been perceived, and the eye of man has caught the

eye of the Creator, beaming out from the midst of all his works. The days for worthless literature, for romance and idle tales are fast fading away, and with their decline has the wranglings and wars between nations ceased, and the death-knell of ignorance, paganism, and superstitious dogmas sounded; in their wake follows the three twin sisters, peace, progress and prosperity. Evolution in fast being recognized in the development of all things, both mind and matter. Both the scientist and the atheist recognize in the First Great Cause, and the Creator, the same infinite and allwise Being; and gradually the whole is being reduced to that grand and long sought for Unity of Nature. We live in an age of utilitarianism, when man's highest ambition is to call to his aid and assistance, nature's most economic forces; and not only is his attention drawn to those forces which render him a service in return, but with great enthusiasm does he penetrate and investigate her most complex phenomena, only to discover that harmony and regularity in all things, which everywhere characterize the laws of nature. To the student of nature, a wide and fruitful field is opened where he may enter in and pluck there the laurels of discovery and fame. The day is come, when the accomplished literary man has ceased to be lauded by the popular mind, and the uncultured man is he, to whom—

"A primrose on the rivers brim,  
A yellow primrose is to him  
And nothing more."

---

#### MISCELLANY.

Signor Gaetano Contro has invented a new carriage wheel, in which the iron rim is united to the hub by semi-circular steel spokes. The curvature allows them to serve both as spokes and as springs. Great speed, elasticity, solidity, and complete absence of noise are enumerated among the special advantages of the new invention.

A conference of thirty distinguished astronomers, from various parts of the world, has been lately held in Paris, and has decided upon eight stations, for the observation of the coming transit of Venus. Regu-

lations were also established for the observation of comets, and the conference expressed a wish that the French government would unite with other governments in the erection of a temporary international bureau, in order that the results of observations might be known as speedily as possible.

M. Marcy has succeeded by instantaneous photography and with the help of a photographic revolver, in obtaining a complete analysis of different forms of locomotion, including the flight of birds. More than two years ago, Muybridge obtained fine pictures of running horses which were photographed in one five-hundredth part of a second. He also photographed flying pigeons, but could get only a single picture. Morey has been able to obtain a dozen successive pictures in a second, each exposure requiring only 1-700 of a second. By arranging the pictures in a phenakistoscope the appearance of the flying bird may be reproduced, under conditions which remit the analysis of the different phases of the wing.

An improved smoking cartridge has been patented by Mr. Edward A. Smith, of St. Albans, Vt. The shell of the cartridge is made of asbestos paper, and is not consumed in smoking and may be refilled. The cartridge filler is provided with wires that pass down into the shell, and after the shell is packed with tobacco, are drawn out with the filler, leaving draught passages for air. A split metal collar fits over the end of the cartridge making a tight joint.

The powers of man have not been exhausted. Nothing has been done by him that can be better done. There is no effort of science or art that may not be exceeded; no depth of philosophy that cannot be deeper sounded; no flight of imagination that may not be passed by strong and soaring wing.

The value of property in the United States is held to be fully \$50,000,000,000 making it the richest country in the world. England, the next richest, has \$44,000,000,000, and France comes next with \$37,000,000,000. The average to every inhabitant in England is about \$1,300, and in the United States but \$1,000.

# THE AURORA.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE  
LITERARY SOCIETIES

OF THE

Iowa State Agricultural College.

## EDITORIAL STAFF.

|                      |       |                  |
|----------------------|-------|------------------|
| W. S. SUMMERS, '82,  | - - - | Editor-in-Chief. |
| O. C. PETERSON, '82, | - - - | Literary         |
| J. A. BLAINE, '82,   | - - - | Scientific.      |
| MARY E. BELL, '84    | - - - | Local.           |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

|                                 |       |               |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| W. U. WHITE, '82, President,    | - - - | Crescent.     |
| LIZZIE PERRETT, '82, Secretary, | - - - | Clolian.      |
| R. M. HUNTER, '83, Treasurer,   | - - - | Philomathean. |
| W. D. WELLS, '83,               | - - - | Bachelor.     |

## TERMS:

|                       |       |        |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| One Year, in advance, | - - - | \$1.00 |
| Single Copy,          | - - - | .12    |

THE AURORA will be forwarded to all subscribers until ordered discontinued and all arrearages paid.

Book notices given free, of all books sent us by authors or publishers.

Address all communications to

THE AURORA, AMES, IOWA.

THE large and roomy boarding cottage is rapidly being completed. It not only serves to ornament the grounds but is a very valuable and much needed addition to the accommodations of the Institution. The crowded condition of the buildings at the beginning of the college year is certainly a strong argument in favor of having this building completed as soon as possible. Every one seems well pleased at the progress of this work. But there is something that has been left undone for some time that certainly is an eyesore to us all. We refer to what was at one time a walk between the main building and the laboratory. We hoped the suggestions made by the class in Landscape Gardening would have the desired effect, but still the only change that has been made has not been for the better. To us it seems more like a ragged relic of hard times than a walk that Prof.'s and students must use every day. The proper persons could adopt no better plan of gaining the praise of the many who are compelled to use the walk by substantially repairing it and by so doing eliminate the danger and inconvenience.

THE preparation that is now being made for the coming contest between the several societies, certainly serves to remind us all that the Institution is much in need of a room, which would be available to the students for the purpose of drilling. We are of the opinion that it would add a very useful and attractive feature to the college had it a *Chair of Elocution*, but as long as such is not the case we do think that a better opportunity might be afforded the students to cultivate the voice and acquire the habit of expressing themselves in an agreeable and forcible manner.

The students in all colleges have more or less pride in such work. We, as students, are no exception to the general rule. If we were encouraged in such work instead of having a 'cold bath' in the form of discouragement thrown upon all tendency to engage in such work, fewer students would leave the college halls, who are incapable of expressing themselves clearly and forcibly. We will agree with our Institution when it says the primary thing to acquire is the power of thought, something to say. But we will also beg leave to ask: Is it not a very important secondary consideration, while gaining knowledge and power of thinking, to also cultivate that by which an education becomes useful, viz: the power of expressing thoughts and imparting information. First it is true, is "something to say." But the second is certainly "how to say it."

ACTIVE measures are now being taken by the students, aided by the faculty, toward building quite a convenient gymnasium. A building of this nature certainly is needed. It will furnish the students with exercise in different sports that has hitherto been deprived them. With this hall, if it is properly fitted up and the present out door exercise added to the excellent exercise gained in the military department, the boys certainly can not complain of not having an opportunity of cultivating the physical along with the mental. But now comes our objection. The ladies of the college do not drill in military neither are they members of the base ball

club or the foot ball association. We are sorry to learn that there is no provision for them in the new building. They study as hard as we do and certainly need good, healthy exercise. We believe the boys are rapidly getting things tolerably well arranged for their recreation. And we also think there ought to be a large room set apart and furnished suitably for the girls. Then they could engage in that exercise which many of them are anxious to have and certainly need.

A FEW remarks made in our presence a few days ago and by men who claimed to be friends to the students in all colleges lead us to express our opinion in the following manner: Those who only observe in a casual manner the conduct of students frequently assert that they are careless and reckless. It is often true that at times they appear so. But those who see the student only on certain occasions make a mistake when they hastily form an opinion of his ability and his character. We will admit that too often it is the case that young men and women conclude that being students they can do that which they heartily condemn in others. And for this reason there has arisen some prejudice against students in general. Again many do not understand the real nature of college life. It certainly is anything but agreeable to a student when he meets such persons and knows that their opinions come from holding wrong ideas as to how we act and what we do in college. Some people make reports, others stand by and are anxious to believe everything they hear. As a result of this we hear the remarks occasionally, "You students have a good time; you always do as you please."

If we were so disposed, it would be folly for us to claim that the character of every student is what it should be. We have those among us who have their weaknesses as well as all other classes. True it is also that the student's work is of such a nature that it confines them largely to indoor exercise. This places him under restraint. As a result of this when an occasion for recreation is offered, too often is it carried so far that people look on and criticise. The fact is no man should judge the student by this

alone. The teaching and association in all colleges are of such a nature that they tend to impress upon the minds of their students sound instructions and gentlemanly habits. It is not just that he should be criticised by those who so far from being interested in his behalf are prejudiced against him.

The majority of us, as students, recognize a life before us. And realizing this we have earnest intentions to perform our work well.

As it is usually considered a part of the province of a periodical to cite any needed reform in the incumbent administration, we wish to call attention to the restrictions regulating communication between the ladies gentlemen of the Institution. We say recent because the degree of complication in obtaining such permission has never within our recollection assumed such proportions as during the present term. Were we asked what the present regulations are we would be unable to state, as we know of no plan that has been attempted that has met with the approbation of the authorities. From what advice we have been the recipients of through our mistakes in this direction we conclude that it would be somewhat like the following: A young gentleman wishing to consult a young lady regarding some society or committee work calls on the Proctor and states his wishes. The Proctor consults the Matron, and if they deem it practicable the matron hunts up the other party and informs her of the fact that an interview is desired and that the conversation must be strictly limited to the topic mentioned. The Proctor starts on a similar tour of exploration after his client and finally, if all prove satisfactory, which is rare, they will be accommodated in the parlor. This is only a sample but it seems to us that with the class of students that make up our catalogue, a little more confidence might be exhibited and greater leniency granted. Visiting friends and others have remarked no little at the inconvenience and often impossibility of seeing those with whom they had little time to spend and something of importance to transact. The laws are not so objectionable, but circumstances often require leniency in their administration.

# LOCALS.

—Taffy!

—Boom!

—Circus!

—Gymnasium.

—Pumpkin pie.

—Supper at six.

—Early darkness.

—Oh, yes, a lecture.

—Come and gone—Jack frost.

—Oratorical contest to be held Oct. 27.

—The other lecturer couldn't come; we told you so.

—It rains, it hails, and it's cold stormy weather.

—There "might have been" a game of base ball on the terrace, Saturday.

—Strange how that cricket ball used to wander off toward the grape patch.

—Make friends with the civil engineers, girls; they survey all around the orchard.

—The last rose of summer—the rows of tomatoes still in a flourishing condition.

—The domestic economy girls are rather a fair looking set of cooks, when taken cabinet size.

—Circus No. 1 in town Tuesday; circus No. 2 in the president's office the following Monday.

—How much help the freshman ladies seem to need with their drawing, especially Saturday afternoons.

—The flowers are the criminals now instead of those who steal them; at least they have been nearly all "taken up."

—While the other students were taking in "Mascotte" at the fair, those who remained at home played Nip and Tuck in the dining room.

—Wouldn't it be a good plan for some one to establish a picture gallery on the College campus, and thus save the faculty considerable trouble?

—That delicious odor which exudes from the Junior girls' rooms every time they return from Domestic economy nearly drives the other maidens wild.

—The laboratory walk presents a rather dilapidated appearance, some fiend seeming to think the only way to repair it being to "break it all up."

—Freshman, singing, "There's a land that is hotter than this." "Where," said a Senior. "Why, you ought to know, down in the president's office."

—The new cottage is a very pleasant structure, but some of the young ladies do not seem to enjoy the prospect exceedingly well, for some unaccountable reason.

—One student gives as his opinion that the hero of the sham battle was the soldier who dealt out ammunition, because he was where the bullets were the thickest.

'Oft in the stilly night,  
When slumbers chains have bound us,  
The bomb-shell's whizzing light  
Is circling all around us."

—The sun has taken a notion to retire before six o'clock, and therefore they don't "low" us to go out of doors after supper. Wonder if old Sol knows what an affliction it is.

—When a table group have their pictures taken and two or three days after word is sent that they must try it again because the negative is spoiled—well, perhaps it's all right, but—

—One Senior seemed to especially enjoy himself at the lecture. On being asked the reason, he explained that this was the first time he had ever sat on the girl's side since he entered the institution.

—We understand a Junior has a treatise on military tactics for ladies. If such is the case let the girls obtain their brooms at once and prepare for drill. We'll not be so very far behind our brothers after all.

—We can't imagine what the president meant when he said all those who indulged in social Saturday evenings must confine their "operations" to the chapel. Further explanation is needed.

—A scream, a sob, a Junior convulsed with laughter, and an interested group trying to discover the cause. These attentive young gentlemen ought to know a girl doesn't care for a mouse as a plaything, even if she isn't afraid of it.

—The AURORA came out rather earlier than usual this month, in the evening, too. Those on the north side of the building seemed to appreciate it more than is their wont.

—“There,” said the professor, as he quickly assisted a young lady who fell as she was coming up the steps, “I knew we fellows were good for something in the case of *mis* haps.”

—If a visitor had been here a short time ago he would probably imagined himself to have made a mistake and landed in a government fort instead of an institution of learning.

—That Tribune reporter had his opinion of boys who bestow no more respect on the press than to send one of its representatives wandering off towards the physical laboratory in search of the library.

—The squirrel problem was liable one while to send more people to untimely graves, than thirteen—fourteen—fifteen—Even the instructors of mathematics began to look dazed.

—The ladies at one Senior table have a most delicate way of hinting that “Barkis is willin’.” Viz: pasting a lecture bill in a conspicuous place when they come down to to breakfast.

—A Freshman gentleman advertised a lost jewel in chapel one evening. From his beaming countenance recreation hour we judged he had found *a* jewel, if not the one he was looking for.

—We can’t imagine what the president meant when he said all those who indulged in social Saturday evenings must confine their “operations” to the chapel. Further explanation is needed.

—A majority of the students have organized themselves into a stock company for the purpose of establishing a gymnasium. Their project is an excellent one, and it is hoped may be carried into execution.

—The base ball nine went to Nevada Saturday in search of “foemen worthy of their steel.” Whether they found what they were looking for or not, we can’t say, but the result tallied two to one in favor of college skill.

—*Sophomore Lady*—“Oh, professor, just look at these queer things in my specimens; what are they?”

*Prof. of Botany*—“Ah, yes, I see; they are those very queer compounds of hydrogen and nitrogen commonly known as—air-bubbles.”

—Fairs are demoralizing things; even our steadiest Senior, upright enough to have been Peter’s son himself, came home from Des Moines telling about having eaten his breakfast the night before, his supper that morning, etc. Sad to contemplate.

—While out surveying one afternoon one of the boys was so unfortunate as to tear his apparel on a barb wire fence. “Why,” said the professor, “is he like this term?” The civil engineers giving it up, he quietly responded, “because he’s *tor’ed* his clothes.”

—Strange Prof. Macomber doesn’t know anything about square root, Silliman’s formulas and such things. At least so thought that Senior who called for him by telephone the other day to inquire about a formula. The central office knew shortly after by the vehement pull of the bell that it wasn’t *Maxwell* but Macomber who was wanted.

—That young gentleman who was tendered a buggy ride by a certain little maiden, together with another diminutive female and a small boy hanging on behind, ought to consider himself especially fortunate. A student of this institution isn’t able to enjoy a ride with his Darling every day in the week.

—There is a great deal of difference in people. Now some young men couldn’t be hired for love or money to venture out into a driving storm and offer their umbrellas to ladies, minus such necessary articles. And then we know of one, at least, who did all that for “just one little Nichol,” and then didn’t get his pay.

—The students were awakened from their dreams one evening near midnight by the signal “lights out.” Probably the proctor was so deep in a problem of metaphysics that he had forgotten we needed looking after. It was so dark on the freshman floor that he was obliged to strike a match in order to see if his commands were obeyed.

—The address given by Prof. Ackers to the students last Sunday was considered a rare treat. His subject was the education to be derived from the four great schools of the world, and so well was it handled that all heaved a sigh of regret when it drew to a close, although the hour for dinner was at hand. May we hope that our State Superintendent's remarks were seed sown on good ground which will bring forth a bounteous harvest in succeeding years.

—The lecture of Prof. Leland on England and the Irish People, gave entire satisfaction to all. It was a most interesting account of the Landlord system in Ireland together with a terribly real picture of the state of that unfortunate people. The speaker gave a rather one-sided view of the question, but probably one could hardly help doing so so whose sympathies were entirely with the Irish peasantry.

—Probably the Nevada boys knew it would rain Saturday, and for that reason sent word they could not be present. But it was rather hard on our club after they had employed the whole civil engineering corps to mark out the ground for them, and coaxed the military company to march over it single file a few times just to flatten it down you know, and then to receive such a disappointment.

—But sham battles cap the climax after all. They eclipse cyclone, shooting matches and all those sort of things put together. Just think of staying out of the building till nearly nine o'clock with sky-rockets, bombshells all doing their best to show off for your amusement. The brave soldier-boys skirmished around and shot off their guns just as though they meant business, while the rest of the students sat on the terrace and told war stories like old veterans. But, "Ade! Ade! Ade! such scenes must pass away," and when the bell sounded, into the house we must all file just as if nothing had happened. Hope they'll have a sham battle again some time.

—Alas, a cyclone lately passed through that region visited by the scientific expedition this summer, and the last vestige left to mark the spot where they had been, was

swept away forever. If further particulars are desired, inquire of the Prof of Mechanics.

Little Freshie had a turnip,  
And he ate, and he ate,  
Until everybody wondered  
What would be that Freshman's fate.  
Then he met a pretty maiden  
Who wished just a little sup,  
And they munched and they munched  
Till they ate the turnip up.

(After Longfellow.)

### CLIPPINGS.

A student of human nature was the Yankee schoolma'am out west, where her predecessor, a man, had been tossed through the window by the rebellious pupils. She got along splendidly, and when asked how she managed it, replied, "Oh, easily enough; I thrashed the little boys and mashed the big boys."

Fogg has got an idea at last, and he says "there's millions in it," as it meets a long felt want. It is nothing less than a revolving house, which is to turn upon a pivot so that the best rooms shall always face the sun in winter, and be in the shade in summer. Fogg has a great head.

### The Christ Picture.

Were it only a myth thin wove  
On a lost world's threadbare hope,  
Which could but our longing prove  
With the tyrant death to cope,  
Still it were sweetest, best,  
Of dreams dreamed under the sun  
Making men's lives to be blest,  
By making men's hearts to be one.  
There sorrow and gladness meet,  
And the crossing of wills is there,  
And the living that makes death sweet,  
And the dying that makes life dear,  
There at the foot of the Cross,  
In the perfect type of His kind,  
Man learns his gain in a loss,  
And his loss in a gain to find,  
The life that is freely spent,  
And eager its life to give,  
To bring to a brother content—  
In a love like this men live.  
While the life that itself would save,  
Setting self all things above,  
Dies ere it reaches the grave,  
In the dismal dearth of love.

—London Spectator.



## PERSONALS.

Miss Athearn made a short trip to Des Moines last week.

Fanny Weatherby and Florence Colelo paid visits to their sisters during fair week.

Guy Burnham and S. Scott have returned, and the Juniors "bob up serenely" once more.

Messrs. Stalkman and Summers have received visits from friends during the past month.

May Benson is teaching in the Laporte City schools, together with other of the I. A. C. students.

Prof. Knapp, having some appointment with the Governor of Missouri, spent a week or so at the St. Louis exposition.

Miss Mellie Stoddard has started on her way to her home in the east, leaving many friends to regret her departure.

Messrs. McElroy, Wicks and Bowers have left to fill the position of pedagogues. They will return in the spring.

Miss Harding has been obliged to leave school on account of illness. She was an earnest student and it is hoped she may return again some time.

Miss Sinclair has been suddenly called away by a telegram announcing the very serious illness of her sister. Mrs. Welch kindly consents to take her place during her absence.

---

## ALUMNI.

'79. A. L. Hanson is banking the town of Hillsboro, Dakota.

'78. Rev. A. E. Griffith gave the I. A. C. a call two or three weeks ago.

'78. M. M. Hitchcock is engaged in the wholesale grocery business at Omaha, Neb.

'81. J. S. Dewell, of '81, has entered the law department at Iowa City. We have no doubt he will *Dew-ell*.

'78. Miss Ellen Rice bestowed a passing glance on us while returning from Des Moines.

'77. H. M. White writes us a racy letter from Washington, California. He is not

engaged in "farming" business as the two last Alumni histories have stated.

'77. J. W. Doxsee is doing a thriving law business in Monticello, Iowa. No small amount of his income is derived in tying and untying matrimonial strings.

'78. Miss Florence Brown and C. B. Martin came to the conclusion that singleness is not always bliss, and have therefore gone into partnership. Congratulations are extended.

'81. F. E. Furry stopped to say goodbye while on his way to Cornell University, New York, where he has obtained the position of Assistant in Chemistry. Every one will rejoice in his good fortune, for he is worthy of all that may come to him.

'79-'81. From the Progress, of Laporte City, Iowa, we glean the following: "In some respects the Board has improved the corps of teachers. Mr. Shearer, the young and efficient principal has been retained and probably will be, so long as he can be induced to hold the position. Under his management the school has been very prosperous and has been worked up to a more perfect and systematic running order. Miss Dora Sayles and Miss Nellie Bell are the other teachers they have retained and their past efforts have won the confidence and esteem of the public and patrons of the school." The paper also states that Laporte has the best looking lot of schoolma'ams that ever infested their city at one time. The I. A. C. students always have carried off the palm for beauty.

---

—We forgot to tell you last month that the Crescents had a "spell" one evening after the reveille had sounded and all rendezvoused in the Crescent room. Visitors as well as members took part, although some, exhibiting great tergiversation, refused to pass in their papers. An Aristotelian Senior, well-learned in Belles Lettres, vanquished all competitors and received a Webster's dictionary and a bouquet as souvenirs of the wonderful "spell" which came over him. Strange to say he doesn't seem at all elated over his personal aggrandizement but goes on in the even tenor of his way as usual.